

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070414 TOSEC 030118  
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S E C R E T STATE 070414 TOSEC 030118

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 1796 ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF INFO BONN  
LONDON MBFR VIENNA USNMR SHAPE USCINCEUR 29 MAR 77

QUOTE SECRET NATO 1796

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: MARCH 29 SPC DISCUSSION OF TABLING NATIONAL  
MANPOWER DATE

REF: (A) MBFR VIENNA 145 (DTG 231747Z MAR 77),  
(B) STATE 69129 (DTG 290155Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: DURING MARCH 29 SPC DISCUSSION FRG REP  
REPORTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES CANNOT AT PRESENT  
AGREE TO TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA IN VIENNA  
(REF A). ITALIAN, BELGIAN AND TURKISH REPS  
SUPPORTED FRG POSITION. UK REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES  
FAVOR THE MOVE, PROVIDED NATO CAN DEVISE A SUITABLE  
DISCLAIMER TO PROTECT THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 070414 TOSEC 030118

COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING. US REP DREW FULLY ON  
REF B. DAKISH AND DUTCH REPS HAD NOT INSTRUCTIONS,  
BUT PERSONALLY THOUGHT THEIR AUTHORITIES WOULD  
AGREE WITH UK. CANADIAN REP THOUGHT OTTAWA  
WOULD WANT TO DEFER ITS DECISION IN ORDER TO  
ASSESS THE RESULTS OF CURRENT US-SOVIET TALKS  
AFTER RECEIVING THE NAC REPORT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

HARTMAN AND GELB ON APRIL 4. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MARCH 29 SPC DISCUSSION, FRG REP (CITRON) REPORTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES CANNOT AT PRESENT AGREE ON TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA IN VIENNA (REF A). HE SAID FRG CONCERNS THAT THIS STEP MIGHT UNDERMINE THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING ARE WELL KNOWN. THIS CONCERN WAS REINFORCED BY THE INSISTENCE WITH WHICH THE EAST HAS URGED AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA: THE FRG GOVERNMENT WAS NOT CONVINCED BY MARCH 22 EASTERN DISCLAIMERS THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE (PARA 5, REF A). FRG REP ALSO SAID HIS AUTHORITIES THINK THE RESULTS OF AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA WILL ONLY BE LIMITED, IN SO FAR AS IT MIGHT REVEAL THE SOURCE OF THE DISCREPANCIES OF EASTERN FIGURES. THEY WOULD FAVOR AN EXPLORATION OF OTHER WAYS IN WHICH NATO MIGHT CONTINUE THE DATA DISCUSSION, SHORT OF TABLING NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA.

2. ITALIAN REP (CIARRAPICO) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES SHARE THE CONCERNS OF THE FRG REGARDING POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF THE COLLECTIVITY. HE WAS NOT PERSUADED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA TO CHALLENGE THE EAST; HE THOUGHT THE WEST COULD BETTER CHALLENGE THE EAST BY TABLING NATO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 070414 TOSEC 030118

HOLDINGS ON UPDATED RED DATA. IN ANY EVENT, ITALY BELIEVES IT IS PREMATURE TO CONSIDER THIS ADDITIONAL STEP ONLY TWO WEEKS AFTER OFFERING TO EXCHANGE DATA ON US AND USSR FORCES.

3. BELGIAN REP (CROLLEN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES ALSO AGREE WITH THE FRG. WHILE THEY DO NOT INSIST THAT TABLING NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA WILL AUTOMATICALLY UNDERMINE THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING, THEY DO BELIEVE THE ALLIES MUST EXPLORE THE CONCEPT CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBLE LINKAGE. BELGIUM ALSO MISTRUSTS THE EASTERN DISCLAIMER OF PREJUDICE AGAINST THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES.

4. NETHERLANDS REP (MEESMAN) ASKED THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) REP WHETHER AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA WOULD ACTUALLY HELP TO CLARIFY

THE EXISTING DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE EASTERN-DECLARED DATA AND NATO INTELLIGENCE HOLDINGS.

MC REP (SMITH) THOUGHT ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE VALUE IN DETERMINING THE EASTERN FIGURE FOR SOVIET FORCES, BUT PROBABLY LESS VALUE IN LEARNING THE FIGURES FOR NSWP FORCES. HE REMINDED THE SPC THAT THE MBFR WORKING GROUP HAD ALREADY DETERMINED THAT WOULD BE NO MILITARY-TECHNICAL DISADVANTAGE IN SUCH AN EXCHANGE (AC/276-D"75)), SEPTEMBER 12, 1975).

5. US REP (JANVRIN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES FAVOR AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA PROVIDED THE ALLIES CAN DEVISE A SUITABLE DISCLAIMER TO PROTECT THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING. THE UK STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PROPOSAL BECAUSE:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 070414 TOSEC 030118

1) IT SEEMS NECESSARY FOR TACTICAL REASONS AS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO BACK AWAY FROM A DISCUSSION OF DATA;

2) AN EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA MAY ENABLE THE WEST TO PINPOINT THE SOURCE OF THE DISCREPANCY IN THE EASTERN FIGURES; AND

3) SUCH AN EXCHANGE WILL NOT INEVITABLY UNDERMINE THE WESTERN POSITION ON COLLECTIVITY SINCE THE REAL GUARANTEE FOR THAT POSITION LIES IN ALLIED SOLIDARITY; HOWEVER, THE UK BELIEVES THE SPC WILL HAVE TO EXPLORE A SUITABLE DISCLAIMER AT LENGTH.

THE UKL ALSO AGREED THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE EAST MIGHT PUBLICIZE THE FAILURE OF THE WEST TO TABLE NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA AND THEREFORE BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL TO AGREE TO THIS STEP BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT ROUND.

6. US REP (REEEZ) DREW ON GUIDANCE IN REF B AND AGREED WITH UK REP THAT TABLING NATIONAL FIGURES FOR DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT NECESSARILY PREJUDICE THE WESTERN POSITION ON COLLECTIVE MBFR OBLIGATIONS.

7. TURKISH REP (GUR) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES SUPPORT THE GERMAN/BELGIAN/ITALIAN POSITION. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT AGREEING WITH THE EAST

ON THIS POINT WILL LEAD TO A GRADUAL EROSION OF  
THE WESTERN POSITION.

8. NETHERLANDS AND DANISH REPS BOTH SAID THEIR  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MARCH 29 MEETING WERE TO  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 070414 TOSEC 030118

LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER DELEGATIONS;  
HOWEVER, BOTH ALSO THOUGHT PERSONALLY THAT THEIR  
AUTHORITIES WOULD EVENTUALLY SUPPORT THE UK  
POSITION.

9. CANADIAN REP (BARTLEMAN) SAID OTTAWA IS  
TRADITIONALLY POSITIVE ON ALL ASPECTS OF DATA  
DISCUSSIONS, BUT THOUGHT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD  
BE MORE CAUTIOUS ON THIS  
THE DIFFICULT MATTER OF TABLING NATIONAL MANPOWER  
DATA. HE SUPECTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD  
WANT TO DIGEST THE REPORT OF THE CURRENT US-USSR  
TALKS ON MOSCOW THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARIES  
HARTMAN AND GELB WILL GIVE TO THE COUNCIL ON  
APRIL 4, BEFORE TAKING A FINAL POSITION ON THIS  
ISSUE.

10. SPC WILL MEET AGAIN ON THE AFTERNOON OF  
APRIL 4.

11. ACTION REQUEST: GUIDANCE PER PARA 3, REF.  
STRAUSZ-JUPE  
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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